

How IPM Can Help Schools



In 1993, the Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) began working with school districts in California to provide information about integrated pest management (IPM) practices. During this time, a few innovative districts in California developed their own IPM programs. In January 2001, the enactment of the Healthy Schools Act of 2000 (Assembly Bill 2260) put into place right-to-know requirements such as notification, posting, and recordkeeping for pesticides used at schools. The law also put into code DPR's existing school IPM program and new, more detailed pesticide use reporting. (For a copy of Assembly Bill 2260, go to www.assembly.ca.gov. Click on "Legislation" and select the 1999–2000 session. Type the bill number "2260," and click "Search." Click on the chaptered version.)

WHAT THE LAW REQUIRES

RIGHT-TO-KNOW

(part of the Education Code – sections 17608–17613)

- 🍏 **Notification.** Each school district shall provide annual written notification with specified information on pesticides to all school staff and parents. The school district shall identify in this written notification all pesticide products (except those that are exempt) it expects to apply in the upcoming year. The notice must also include DPR's School IPM Web site (www.schoolipm.info). Most school districts include this information in the annual packet they distribute to staff and parents at the beginning of the school year.
- 🍏 **Registry.** Each school shall provide the opportunity for interested staff and parents to register with the school district if they want to be notified about individual pesticide applications at the school before they occur.
- 🍏 **Warning signs.** The school district shall post warning signs at each area of the school where pesticides will be applied. These signs are posted 24 hours before and 72 hours after applications and should be sufficient, in the district's opinion, to restrict uninformed access to treated areas.
- 🍏 **Recordkeeping.** Each school shall maintain records of all pesticide use at the school for four years and make the records available to the public upon request.

- 🍏 **IPM coordinators.** Each school district must designate an IPM coordinator to carry out these requirements.

For more information please contact Dave Hawke, California Department of Education, at (916) 322-1459 or dhawke@cde.ca.gov. To assist school districts, DPR has posted on its Web site samples of the annual notification and the registry, and a template of the warning sign. Download these documents at www.schoolipm.info.

PESTICIDE USE REPORTING

(part of the Food and Agricultural Code – FAC sections 13180–13188)

The law (FAC section 13186) requires that:

- 🍏 Licensed pest control businesses shall report pesticide applications by school annually to DPR beginning with applications made on or after January 1, 2002.

WHAT DPR DOES

(FAC sections 13180–13185)

- 🍏 Under the law DPR was required to prepare a school pesticide use reporting form to be used by licensed pest control businesses when they apply any pesticides at a school. Licensed pest control businesses must submit the form to DPR at least annually. To download the form, go to www.cdpr.ca.gov, click on "Forms" in the "Quick Finder," then on "Pesticide Use Reporting."

IPM STANDS FOR INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT, A WIDELY ACCEPTED APPROACH TO PEST MANAGEMENT THAT RESULTS IN EFFECTIVE SUPPRESSION OF PEST POPULATIONS WHILE MINIMIZING HUMAN HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARDS.



🍏 DPR was required to establish a school IPM Web site with information on pesticide products; a comprehensive directory of resources describing and promoting least-hazardous pest management practices at schools; a model program guidebook; and ways to reduce the use of pesticides at school facilities. The Web site, www.schoolipm.info, also provides the public with information about public health and environmental impacts of pesticides.

🍏 DPR shall promote and facilitate the voluntary adoption of IPM programs for school districts, while it assists their compliance with the new provisions of the Education Code.

For more information please contact Nita Davidson, DPR, at (916) 445-3914 or school-ipm@cdpr.ca.gov.

HOW WE HELP

DPR HELPS SCHOOL DISTRICTS

🍏 **Establishing a Web site on IPM in schools.** Visit DPR's Web site (www.schoolipm.info) where you can see frequently asked questions about the Healthy Schools Act, or download samples of letters to parents about expected pesticide use and the registry, and a template for the warning sign. The School IPM HELPR (Health and Environmental impact LookuP Resource) feature provides information on public health and environmental impacts of pesticides and least-toxic pest management practices. All our published school IPM information is posted. Check often to see updates and additions. You also can subscribe to receive automatic updates via e-mail – go to www.schoolipm.info and click on “Join E-List” under the “Featured Links” that you will find on the right-hand menu.

🍏 **Training individuals designated by school districts to carry out school IPM.** DPR conducts training workshops so that those who carry out the IPM program can better understand principles of IPM and can in turn train staff. DPR developed training curricula and, in cooperation with the University of California, are developing four interactive training CDs.

🍏 **Assisting districts to establish IPM policies and programs.** Some school districts already have IPM policies and programs; many more are working to establish them. DPR developed fact sheets on ants and cockroaches that explain pest biology and IPM solutions. DPR also gives presentations at meetings attended by maintenance and operations directors and staff, school administrators, educators, and parents. We also publish IPM articles in trade journals.

🍏 **Developing an IPM guidebook.** DPR publishes a model program guidebook to help districts adopt an IPM program tailored to pests and conditions in California. Pests covered include insects, mites, rodents, birds, diseases of landscape plants and turf, and weeds. To download the guidebook, go to www.schoolipm.info and click on “School IPM Guidebook” in the “Featured Links.”

🍏 **Evaluating IPM adoption in schools.** Baseline and follow-up surveys help DPR measure IPM adoption in schools, evaluate what kind of outreach school districts need, and whether or not this outreach has been effective. You can view published reports on our Web site at www.schoolipm.info.

Working with school districts to make IPM the preferred way to manage pests is paying off. DPR offers a variety of resources, including IPM workshops that have trained hundreds of school district personnel, and schools are finding that the IPM approach works well.



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF PESTICIDE REGULATION

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